

## **CLAIMS**

**I Claim:**

1. A railroad e-clip removal system, comprising:
    - an outer tube with an outer cutout;
    - an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer tube, wherein said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion, wherein said engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip; and
    - an actuator unit attached to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes a member that is attached to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner tube within said outer tube.

2. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging portion is a lower rear edge of said inner cutout.

3. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging portion is positioned near a rear portion of said outer cutout when said inner tube is retracted.

4. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said engaging portion extends below said outer cutout for engaging an e-clip.

5. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer tube and said outer tube have a similar cross sectional shape.

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3       6. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, including a plurality of legs  
4 attached to said outer tube.  
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7       7. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 6, wherein one of said legs is  
8 engageable to a tubular support member during removal of an e-clip.  
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11       8. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 6, wherein one of said legs is  
12 shorter than the remaining legs and has a flanged portion for being positioned upon a  
13 rail foot of a rail member.  
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16       9. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer tube is  
17 longer than said inner tube.  
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20       10. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 1, wherein said outer cutout  
21 and said inner cutout are similar in position and size.  
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24       11. A railroad e-clip removal system, comprising:  
25           an outer tube with an outer cutout;  
26           a support structure having a handle member attached to said outer tube;  
27           an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer tube, wherein  
28           said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion, wherein said  
29           engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip; and

1           an actuator unit attached to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes  
2    a shaft member that is attached to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner  
3    tube within said outer tube.

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6           12. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging  
7    portion is a lower rear edge of said inner cutout.

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10          13. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging  
11    portion is positioned near a rear portion of said outer cutout when said inner tube is  
12   retracted.

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15          14. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said engaging  
16    portion extends below said outer cutout for engaging an e-clip.

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19          15. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said outer tube  
20    and said outer tube have a similar cross sectional shape.

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23          16. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, including a plurality of  
24    legs attached to said outer tube.

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27          17. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 16, wherein one of said legs is  
28    engageable to a tubular support member during removal of an e-clip.

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2        18. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 16, wherein one of said legs is  
3 shorter than the remaining legs and has a flanged portion for being positioned upon a  
4 rail foot of a rail member.

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7        19. The railroad e-clip removal system of Claim 11, wherein said outer tube is  
8 longer than said inner tube.

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11        20. A method of operating a railroad e-clip removal apparatus for removing an  
12 e-clip, wherein said railroad e-clip removal apparatus is comprised of an outer tube  
13 with an outer cutout, an inner tube slidably positioned within a lumen of said outer  
14 tube, wherein said inner tube includes an inner cutout and an engaging portion,  
15 wherein said engaging portion is engageable to an e-clip, and an actuator unit attached  
16 to said outer tube, wherein said actuator unit includes a shaft member that is attached  
17 to said inner tube for extending/retracting said inner tube within said outer tube, said  
18 method comprising the steps of:

19            (a) positioning said railroad e-clip removal apparatus about an e-clip  
20 positioned within a tubular support member, wherein said e-clip is positioned beneath  
21 said inner cutout; and

22            (b) extending said actuator unit so that said inner tube extends forwardly  
23 within said outer tube and wherein said engaging portion engages said e-clip for  
24 removing said e-clip from said tubular support member.